



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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**Janice Nienow-(414) 297-1096**

Email: **janice.nienow@sba.gov**

## ***SBA Honors Wisconsin's Newest Preferred Lender***

**Racine:** On Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at a ceremony at Johnson Bank's corporate headquarters in Racine, President/CEO of Johnson Financial Group, Inc. Richard A. Hansen was presented with a PLP Plaque by SBA Region V Administrator Patrick Rea in recognition of Johnson Bank attaining Preferred Lender status with the Small Business Administration.

Additional attendees at the presentation were Wisconsin SBA District Director Eric Ness and Business Development Specialist Joe Rosner, Johnson Bank's Assistant Vice President for Corporate Credit Chris J. Wood, SVP-Director of Commercial Banking Services Chris Ott and Corporate Credit Officer Amy Klaus.

The Preferred Lenders Program (PLP) is another step in SBA's process of "streamlining" the procedures necessary to provide financial assistance to the small business community. Under PLP, SBA delegates loan approval, closing, and most servicing and liquidation authority and responsibility to these carefully selected lenders. They are also required to have the ability to develop and analyze complete loan packages and a satisfactory performance history with SBA. Johnson is one of these selected lenders.

"We are pleased to congratulate Johnson Bank on their top performance in SBA's Preferred Lenders Program (PLP)," says SBA Region V Administrator Patrick Rea, "Johnson Bank joins an expanding national list of PLP lenders that are working in partnership to streamline the process of providing financial assistance to the small business community".

Johnson Bank helps businesses grow through their flexible lending options. One of their options is to utilize government programs, which are available through the U.S. Small Business Administration as well as local community development corporations. Johnson tailors financing packages to fit specific needs that include lower down payments, smaller monthly payments, and long-term fixed interest rates. They can assist business expansions that want to compete in the global marketplace by being a partner in supporting international financial transactions.

"We are very conservative with our lending practices, but more importantly, we do the right thing for our clients" said Richard Hansen, President and CEO. "It works."

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Johnson Bank has a commitment to building meaningful, long-term relationships with their customers and is the inspiration behind the “Johnson Bank difference.” They promise to provide outstanding customer service, expert guidance, comprehensive financial planning and the fullest range of products.

“We are extremely proud to recognize Johnson Bank as Wisconsin’s newest preferred lender and look forward to a long and rewarding association” said SBA Wisconsin District Director Eric Ness.

*Additional information about SBA’s programs and services is available  
at SBA’s Web site: [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) and Wisconsin’s SBA Website: [www.sba.gov/wi](http://www.sba.gov/wi)*

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